



Appl. No. 09/928,896  
Amdt. Dated May 30, 2003  
Reply to Office action of March 3, 2003

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to require, *inter alia*, "a plurality of elongated baffles arranged in a row extending in a longitudinal direction of each of the plurality of baffles, and the row being positioned between one of the plurality of chambers and an adjacent one of the plurality of chambers."

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 11 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 283,025 to Rowan. Further, claims 1-3, 6, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,095,505 to Miller (hereinafter "Miller '505"). The rejections of claims 1-9 are now moot in view of the amendment to claim 1, as explained below. Further, for reasons stated below, the rejection is respectfully traversed with regard to claim 11 and its dependent claims.

Regarding amended claim 1, Rowan does not teach "a plurality of elongated baffles arranged in a row extending in a longitudinal direction of each of the plurality of baffles" as required. Since the row extends in a longitudinal direction of the baffles, the baffles are essentially arranged in an "end-to-end" fashion. Rowan discloses a series of division-plates (*k*) positioned *parallel* to one another (see Fig. 3), not end-to-end as required. Since each of the division-plates (*k*) of Rowan are *parallel*, they cannot be said to be arranged in a row extending in a longitudinal direction, as in claim 1. Since every limitation of the claim is not taught or disclosed by Rowan, claim 1 and its rejected dependent claims 2-5, 7 and 8 are patentable over Rowan.

Regarding claim 11, Rowan does not teach "a non-planar dividing wall" and "an opening in the dividing wall providing fluid communication between chambers," as required. Rowan teaches a chamber (*i*) having a corrugated top or roof (*j*). Unlike the dividing wall of claim 11, Rowan does not disclose that the corrugated roof (*j*) has an opening. Since every limitation of the claim is not taught or disclosed by Rowan, claim 11 and its rejected dependent claims 13-15

AMENDED CLAIMS (SUBMITTED WITH THIS AMENDMENT) ARE INDICATED BY A SHADOWED BACKGROUND

following reasons, based on the amendment of claim 1, the rejection is now moot.

Regarding claim 10, for the reason stated above with regard to claim 1 from which claim 10 depends, Rowan does not teach or suggest "a plurality of elongated baffles arranged in a row extending in a longitudinal direction of each of the plurality of baffles" as required.

Further, regarding claim 10, Miller '505 does not teach or suggest "a plurality of elongated baffles arranged in a row extending in a longitudinal direction of each of the plurality of baffles" as required by claim 1, from which claim 10 depends. Miller teaches a contact chamber (24) containing two parallel and spaced apart baffles (44). These baffles (44) are not in a row extending in a longitudinal direction of each of the baffles, as required. Nothing in Miller '505 suggest modifying its teachings to place the baffles in a row, end-to-end, as in the present invention.

Since every limitation of claim 10 is not taught or suggested by either Rowan or Miller '505, claim 10 is patentable over the prior art of record.

Claims 16, 17, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,564,415 to Dobson et al. (hereinafter "Dobson '415"). Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Dobson '415 in view of Rowan or Miller '505. For the purpose of expediting the prosecution of the present application, claims 16-20 have been cancelled by amendment herein. Thus, the rejections are now moot.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Rowan. For the following reasons, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claim 12, for the reasons stated above with regard to claim 11 from which claim 12 depends, Rowan does not teach or suggest "a non-planar dividing wall" and "an opening in the dividing wall providing fluid communication between chambers," as required. Since every limitation of the claim is not taught or suggested by Rowan, claim 12 is patentable over the prior art of record.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the

Examiner is limited to initiate a telephone

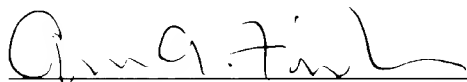
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to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 32866US1.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARNE & GORDON LLP

By:   
Aaron A. Fishman, Reg. No. 44682

526 Superior Avenue, East  
Suite 1200  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1484  
(216) 579-1700

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